



HAWAII VETERAN

Lawelawe i na kōa kahiko me ka ha 'aheo: "Serving veterans with pride"

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State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services

Winter 1997

vet news

Clinton names West as acting VA secretary

WASHINGTON--The President announced the appointment of Togo D. West Jr., as acting secretary of Veterans Affairs. The appointment will be effective Jan. 2, 1998. West is to be nominated as VA secretary after the U.S. Senate reconvenes in January. West has been secretary of the Army since 1993.

West was initially commissioned a Field Artillery officer in 1965, then was commissioned in the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps in 1969. He is an honor graduate of the Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course.

For his military service, West was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal, and for his public service, he was awarded the Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

West is an Eagle Scout and has been accorded the additional rank of Distinguished Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and a juris doctorate from Howard University.

(more vet news on page 6)



Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson presents the U.S. flag and Hawaiian flag to the widow of Maj. Gen. Valentine A. Sieferman, 77, who died Dec. 30, 1997. He was the state adjutant general and director of State Civil Defense from 1973 to 1981, when he retired. He served 20 years as the Commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) and was one of the original members of the organization when the HIANG was started in 1946.

Former TAG buried with full military honors at HSVC

By Deborah M. S. Murray

The State of Hawaii Department of Defense said good bye to one of its own in a military funeral service, Jan. 5, at Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery.

Retired Maj. Gen. Valentine A. Siefermann died Dec. 30, 1997. He was buried with full military honors including a three-gun volley, performed by the U.S. Army's Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery; 21-Gun Salute by the U.S. Air Force's 15th Air Base Wing Honor Guard; and an F-15 flyover by the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG).

A prayer was given by Ron Faux, pastor of Kailua United Methodist Church.

"Today, we honor and bid farewell to Maj. Gen. Valentine A. Siefermann--a visionary leader, a pioneer, and a citizen-airman who lives on in his many accomplishments and contributions to the State of Hawaii De-

partment of Defense," Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, said of the general.

Siefermann was the state adjutant general and director of State Civil Defense from 1973 to 1981. He served as the commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard for 20 years from 1953 to 1973, before he was selected adjutant general.

His numerous accomplishments include working closely with the U.S. Air Force to allow the Hawaii Air National Guard to assume the Air Defense alert mission of the Hawaiian Islands in 1956; establishing a mobile communications squadron, which today is the 201st Combat Communications Group; helping to modernize the Post-Vietnam Hawaii Army National Guard aviation program; and, under his direction Hawaii became the first State to get involved in marijuana eradication

efforts in the 1970s.

"Much of what we . . . are today can be traced to the hard work and vision of General Siefermann," said Richardson adding, "he guided our growth, secured the funding to build a number of outstanding facilities, and forged our role in national defense as well as an increased role in the safety and well-being of our State and communities."

"Forty-two years after his vision became a reality, those of us who worked with him know that without his vision . . . without his guidance in building facilities . . . without his direction and unrelenting quest for excellence, this achievement would not have been possible.

He is survived by his wife, the former Pauline F. Capanas of Kahuku; sons Frnaklin and Dickerson Smith, James, Robert and John; daughters, Valarie Way and Gail Lawrence; 16 grands and 11 great-grands.

Office of Veterans Services

State of Hawaii Department of Defense

See this feature on the Internet at: <http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/message.htm>



Make 1998 the year for planning your long-term care needs

From the Director
Walter M. Ozawa

As we open the Year of the Tiger, I would like to thank you for your great support and participation during the past year! 1997 was a very full and meaningful year for me personally and professionally, and you all made it a satisfying and gratifying year. We look forward to an exciting and successful new year in 1998.

In the last issue of the Hawaii Veteran, I briefly discussed the need for all veterans to prepare now from long term care. I was surprised by the number of comments I received about this subject. Most people, unfortunately, don't want to think about preparing for what they will need as we get older. I'm a "baby boomer," and over 50...like a large number of our veterans in Hawaii. Many are counting on Social Security to tide them over, along with retirement pay. Of course, there are those who fortunately invested well, or set aside a retirement financial package. However, most have not, especially those in their mid-40s to mid-50s.

A recent Sunday paper carried a column titled, "Follow the law on qualifying for Medicaid" which pointed out that the national average for full-time care at a nursing home is \$45,000 a year, or \$3,750 per month. It is much higher in Hawaii, and can quickly deplete an elderly person's life savings. Indeed, I know of a veteran who had Alzheimer's, whose wife sold their home on the mainland to move back to Hawaii to be

closer to family to assist them. Although afflicted with Alzheimer's, he was otherwise physically healthy. His wife ended up using all their capital gains, which had been set aside for a home in Hawaii, to care for him. After several years, he passed away, leaving his widow with nothing. Now her long term care needs must be met with Medicaid; not at all the quality of life they had envisioned when he retired from the military and a second career, a total of over sixty years of work between the two of them.

Once over 65, military health care coverage for the retired veteran is transferred to Medicare, not Medicaid. (Medicaid benefits are, as you know, usually for the impoverished.) Thus, many elderly use up all their assets before they qualify. Recent laws "look back" three to five years to prevent gifts or transfers of assets to family members in order to meet the "poverty test," where such gifts and transfers are counted in the eligibility test. This is a complex and sensitive issue, especially since Medicaid does not provide for the quality of life you may have in mind in your later years. This is especially so for Hawaii, where people

live longer and the cost of living is significantly higher.

There are some options, of course. But as you get older, those options become exponentially more expensive. Whether you consider some form of long-term care insurance, financial planning, retirement planning, or investments, the sooner you take action, the better. Regrettably, for most of our elder veterans, it is too late for financial action. Still, you should to set aside time with family to discuss your wishes, and consider your future options. For "boomer" veterans and younger, sit down and plan out your later years of retirement, it will be a valuable experience.

Hawaii does not currently have a veterans home. While the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs does have a 60-bed Center for Aging on the grounds of Tripler Army Medical Center, only 15 beds are for long term geriatric care rehabilitation and respite services, which means they are not for residential care.

Bottom line, veterans, is that if you don't have anything in place, do it now! If you don't know where to start, ask your veterans organization to put together a briefing for you as a group. Your Office of Veterans Services is planning a Governor's Conference on Veterans in May 1998, focusing on older veterans, to address this and other issues. The federal Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center (VAMROC), State Departments of Health, Human Services,

Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Hawaii Housing Authority, among others, will be participating. More information will be sent out later.

E-mail Walter M. Ozawa at: ovs@dod.hawaii.gov or you can write him at the Oahu address to the left, if you have any comments about this column or any other issues related to veterans.

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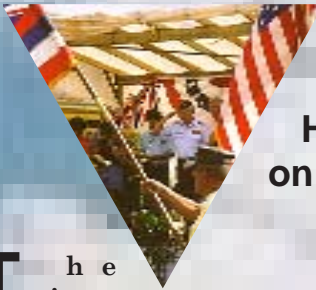
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Veterans Day 1997

Hawaii National Guard assists in ceremonies on islands of Kauai, Oahu, Hawaii

The rains fell but spirits were lifted at this year's Governor's Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe. Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano and Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson were joined by a host of state and military dignitaries and, most importantly, Hawaii's own honored veterans.

"Veteran's Day allows us to remember the sacrifices that soldiers like the 442nd gave. Despite the problems and obstacles they faced, they gave it their all," said State Rep. Kenny Goodenow. "This is one important message for the young people like us...that despite any obstacles in your way...America still offers many opportunities."

During his keynote address, Cayetano spoke of the nation's and Hawaii's fallen heroes and how their contributions continue to make a difference in the world today.

"Just as we honor our veterans

through ceremony and rights, today we must all remember that the preservation of our democratic ideals and our way of life is a task which is never finished," said Cayetano.

The Governor was then joined by U.S. Pacific Commander Adm. Archie Clemins in placing a wreath at the base of the cemetery's memorial wall. As the 21-gun salute was rendered, hundreds of those attending the ceremony bowed their heads in respect ... remembering the names, the faces ... and the reason why a day is set aside every year for veterans.

"Veteran's day is a time for remembrance," said 18-year-old Fabian Campbell, a corpsmember of Youth ChalleNGe who attended the ceremony to help in various capacities. "I used to think that it was a day to stay home from school, but now I have a task on this day and I respect veterans

more now for the freedom we have."

Korean War veteran Edward Bailey proudly attended the ceremony to remember what his time in the military was all about.

"I know how important it is, we need to stand up and be heard so our rights will not be taken away," said Bailey.

Punchbowl ceremony

Hawaii Air National Guard F-15 Eagles flew a missing-man formation over the National Memorial of the Pacific at Punchbowl, during the traditional morning ceremony. The speaker for the event was retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Frances I. Mossman. The theme for the event was, "Our nation's commitment to our young veterans future."

Kauai Veterans Parade

Meanwhile, on Kauai, Garden Isle residents paid tribute to their veterans during the annual Kauai

VETERANS—continued on page 5)

SALUTE IN THE SKY—Hawaii Air National Guard's F-15 Eagles fly the missing-man formation over the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl for Veterans Day.

1997: Year in Review



Capt. Charles J. Anthony photo

Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano (center), Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson and Maj. Gen. Robert Foley render honors after a wreath is presented at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery, Va., June 25.



Sgt. 1st Class Stephen M. Lum photo

FLASHBACK--World War II veterans Robert Katayama, Joe Muramatsu, Howard Furamoto and Thomas Takemoto, pose in front of a mural (at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.) that depicts their unit in Europe.



Volunteers Sammy Young and Jerry Watson volunteer to keep the Korean/Vietnam Memorials spotless. Young is always on the job every Thursday.



These Vietnam-era veterans light a candle during a Memorial Day Candlelight ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).



Medal of Honor awardee retired Sgt. Maj. Alan Kellogg Jr. lights a candle to urge people to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day.

This represents one of the many workshops held at the Kauai Vet Center to inform veterans about services available to them. Here Veteran Delos Santos receives a new digital identification card from a Department of Veterans Affairs representative.



Kauai Vet Center photo



Photos taken by Deborah M. Sanders Murray unless noted otherwise.

Members of the Advisory Board on Veterans Services tour the Veterans Affairs Center for the Aging, located on the Tripler Army Medical Center Complex. The center officially opened in Fall 1997.



These graves at the Hilo Veterans Cemetery are decorated in floral and patriotic splendor for Veterans Day 1997.

(top left) John Tupasi, a member of Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post 3292, was one of the many volunteers that participates in the nationally proclaimed "Make a Difference Day" pulling weeds at Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Kaneohe.

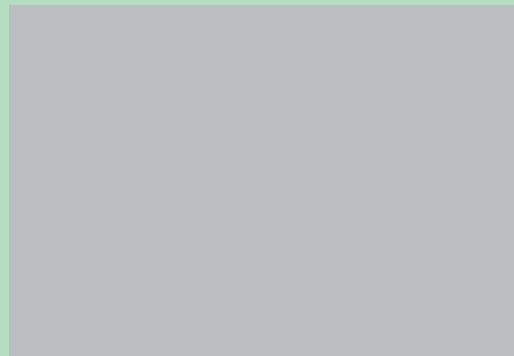
(bottom left) Members of the Kauai Veterans Council stand poised to render the 21-Gun Salute during a funeral ceremony at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery.

(below) Retired Lt. Col. Robert Montague proudly displays his Vietnamese Distinguished Service Medal. He has earned the right to wear this medal after a 27-year controversy.

OVS photo



Carswell Ross



VETERANS DAY -- *continued from page 3*

Veterans Parade on Nov. 8th.
 Hundreds lined Kuhio Highway through Kapaa for the festive commemorative event.
 It opened with a six-member Hawaii National Guard color detail along with the Guard's 111th Army Band, Headquarters State Area Command and 154th Air Control Squadron marching formations. Other highlights included JROTC units, veterans groups and representatives from both the private and public sector.
 "It is a pleasure for us to be on Kauai because it is really a family

island and we enjoy being here," said Maj. Gen. Richardson as he greeted many of those attending the parade.
 All in all, no matter what island you were on...Veterans Day was a time of reflection...to remember good times and bad, a time to be proud and a time to be thankful that we made it, but sad that it cost so much.
West Hawaii Veteran's Cemetery
 Veterans on the Big Island's west side got a special gift this Veteran's Day, as the West Hawaii Veteran's Cemetery was officially dedicated, blessed and opened, Nov. 9.

"In the past, West Hawaii veterans were laid to rest either in private cemeteries or in veterans cemeteries in Hilo, more than a hundred miles away," said Maj. Gen. Richardson. "Now, West Hawaii has a veteran's cemetery of its own...here on the slopes of Hualalai, with a panoramic view of the ocean. This cemetery will serve as a fitting resting place for our veterans and their families."
 The cemetery will be constructed in two phases. Phases 1A and 1B have been completed a cost of \$1.6 million. This phase includes an access road from the Queen Kaahumanu Highway, a parking lot, flag poles and one-half acre burial area..Construction begins for Phase II of the cemetery in mid-1998. It will cost close to \$2.2 million and will include a commercial shelter, more burial sites and a perimeter road.
 The State has provided half of the funds

EDITOR'S NOTE: Contributing to the Veterans Day coverage were Capt. Charles J. Anthony, 2nd Lt. Jeffrey D. Hickman, Sgt. 1st Class Shiloh M. Low, 1st Lt. Charles M. Kominami, Cpl. Vincent Maloney-Cui and Spc. Jonathan M. Shiroma. The graphic on page 3 in the v-shape is of the veterans organization color guards passing the reviewing stand during the Kauai Veterans Day parade, Nov. 8, 1997. The page layout was designed by Stephen M. Lum, Hawaii Veteran, associate editor.

Q & A:

Department of Veterans Affairs

Does VA's guarantee on the property mean the government is satisfied the house is structurally sound? We have found cracks in the foundation of the older home we bought last year and are concerned this could lead to future problems.

No. VA's guarantee of the home loan is based on an appraisal, but the appraiser's job is not the same as a home inspector. VA affixes warning statements to this effect on the VA "certificate of reasonable value." In new construction loans, VA inspectors ensure the construction conforms to the contract specifications. Home purchasers should make their own arrangements for professional structural inspection is desired.

If I am found to qualify for VA vocational rehabilitation benefits, how many years do I have to complete my rehabilitation program?

A disabled veteran found to be eligible generally must complete the rehabilitation program within 12 years of the date of his or her discharge or release from active duty.

For more information, contact any VA office. In Honolulu, call 566-1000 or 1 (800) 827-1000 or write: VA Medical and Regional Office, P.O. Box 50188, Honolulu, HI 96850.

See this feature on the Internet at:
<http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/q&a.htm>

vet news--continued from page 1

See Vet news on the Internet at:
<http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/vetnews.htm>

Funds released for Oahu Veterans Center

Gov. Ben Cayetano announced that the State will build an Oahu Veterans Center to serve as a meeting place for 70 Oahu veterans organizations.

Cayetano has released \$500,000 for design, \$2.3 million for construction, and \$1,000 for equipment to make this 10,000 to 15,000 square foot facility a reality by 1999. Construction is expected to begin next year.

"The needs of Oahu's 90,000 military veterans will be well-served by this long-awaited Veterans Center," Gov. Cayetano said.

"The facility is important to veterans because many of their organizations lack a permanent meeting hall."

"We are thrilled to have a place we can call home, to conduct meetings, hold social gatherings, and properly display flags with dignity and honor," said Fred Ballard, Secretary of the Oahu Veterans Council, and Executive Director of the Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 46.

The Oahu Veterans Center will be built on a 3-acre parcel in the middle of Richardson Field at Pearl Harbor, near the USS Arizona Visitors Center. The parcel will be acquired by the State in exchange for State land of equal value located near the "Aiea Landing."

For more information, call Walter Ozawa, OVS director at 587-3010.

Arlington memorial honors women veterans

ARLINGTON, VA.--The Women in Military Service for America Memorial was dedicated Oct. 18 unifying a sisterhood of veterans. The memorial is at the gateway to Arlington Cemetery and includes a terrace, reflecting pool and education center featuring a theater, Hall of Honor, exhibit hall and gift shop. At the heart of the memorial is the computer register which tells the stories of the women who served.

More than 250,000 women have regis-

tered or have been registered by family or friends. The memorial staff is still trying to reach the almost 2 million women who served in all branches of the armed forces, so they can be included in the register. To register, call 1-800-4-SALUTE.

The WIMSA has a World Wide Web site at: <http://www.wimsa.org>

Army searching for World War II award recipients

Monterey, CA--A team of historians at the Presidio is searching for Asian-American and Pacific Islander soldiers and airmen who received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), the nation's second-highest award for valor, in WWII.

The project encompasses U.S. soldiers and airmen of Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean and Southeast Asian, Native Hawaiians, Micronesians, Polynesians, Melanesians and other Pacific Islanders. It will also review individuals who served in the Army Air Forces.

After the project's completion, the Pentagon will convene a special awards board to consider upgrade to the Medal of Honor.

Persons with information regarding the ethnic groups who received the DSC in WWII while serving in the Army Ground or Air Forces are being asked to call Scott D. Welch at (408) 242-7864 (e-mail: welchs@pom-emhl.army.mil). The fax number is (408) 242-7864.

TRICARE program changes help retirees

The ability to transfer enrollment in TRICARE Prime is finally available. The change took effect beginning Dec. 1, 1997.

Enrollment portability allows TRICARE Prime beneficiary to continue enrollment when moving from one Prime region to another.

For more information, call TRICARE in Hawaii at (808) 535-8990.

Former OVS advisory board member dies

Judith (Joy) Worobe, 63, formerly of Pearl City, died Oct. 2., 1997, in South Paris, Maine.

She was born Jan. 21, 1934 in Chicago, Ill., and is survived by husband, Donald J.; son, James A., South Paris, Maine; daughter, Miriam Trevino, Tacoma, Wash.; five grandchildren; daughter-in-laws, Edith Worobe, South Paris, Maine; and son-in-law, Arnoldo A. Trevino, Tacoma, Wash.

She received a bachelor of science degree in nursing from San Diego State College and a master's in nursing from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. She served in the Air Force during the Korean War.

Worobe served as a public health nurse in L.A. County, Arlington

County, and the State of Hawaii; instructor in nursing at UH-Manoa and Hawaii College; medical director of an experimental preschool in the Governor's Office and assistant for Family Planning, State of Hawaii; adolescent program specialist, community health nurse, pediatric nurse practitioner,



Worobe

and advice nurse at Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Hawaii Region.

She was a member of the American Nurses Association; National League for Nursing; Sigma Theta Tau Alpha Chapter; and past commander, Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of Hawaii, and was active in Honolulu community in Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and veterans' activities. She also was a charter member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Veterans Services; served for eight years, two as board chair.

Listed in "The World Who's Who of Women, 1982 edition."

Her husband Don said of her, "Joy always put the needs of Hawaii's veterans first in everything she did. We'll miss her."

Send Valentines to U.S. veterans

Every year Ann Landers encourages her readers to send valentines for veterans to their nearest veterans hospital. This year, the acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Togo West, is participating in the program in conjunction with the VA's annual national salute to hospitalized veterans held from Feb. 8-14.

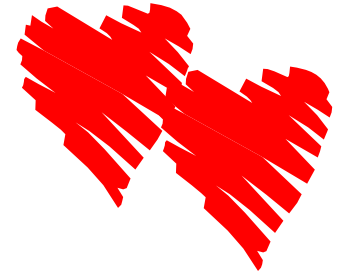
"For years, your readers

have opened their hearts to American's hospitalized veterans by sending cards and letters to the 173 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers across the country through your Ann Landers-Valentine Vet program. As acting secretary of veterans affairs, it is a privilege for me to participate in this worthwhile program, which

relies so much on the generosity of your caring readers," West said.

In his letter, West singled out a card made by a fifth-grade student in Ohio with red hearts, candy stripes and sparkles, which read: "This is a special card I made for you. Whenever you are lonely or blue, look at this and know that I think of you."

He stressed, "All of these handcrafted cards were created with love and respect for our nation's veterans. We hope your readers will again take time to let our veterans know that they are appreciated and not forgotten. It is an honor and privilege to serve those who have given so much to this nation."



In Hawaii, valentines for veterans can be sent to:

Center for the Aging
Tripler Army Medical
Center
Honolulu, Hawaii

Tripler Army Medical
Center
Honolulu, Hawaii

VAMROC, Honolulu
P.O. Box 50188
Honolulu, HI 96850
Attention: Valentines for
Veterans

Old Soldiers Reunion, Sept. 17-20, 1998

The Ninth Annual Old Soldiers Reunion will be held at various locations in Kahului, Maui, Sept. 17-20, 1998.

Reservations must be made at either the Maui Seaside Hotel or the Maui Beach Hotel before June 15.

Activities for the reunion include a Golf Tournament, Sept. 18, 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Waiehu Golf Course; Bowling at Aloha Lanes, Sept. 18, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon; reunion banquet will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Red Dragon Room of the Maui Beach Hotel.

For information about how you can register to attend the Maui Old Soldiers Reunion contact Peggy Haake at (808) 877-0197.

calendar/notices

See the calendar/notices on the Internet at:
<http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/ovscal.htm>

February 16, 1998

President's Day, state and federal holiday.

March 26, 1998

Prince Kuhio Day, state holiday.

April 10, 1998

Good Friday, state holiday.

May 11-16, 1998

Hawaii Military Week, activities at various locations recognizing contributions of the military.

May 25, 1998

Memorial Day, federal and state holiday.

July 20-26, 1998

The WAVES' will hold its 1998 National Convention at

the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki. For more information, contact Eugenia C. Woodward at, (808) 623-4735.

July 2-5, 1998

The Oahu AJA Veterans Council is sponsoring the 1998 AJA Veterans National Convention, Honolulu. It will be held at the Hawaii Convention Center and the Ala Moana Hotel. The council is made up of AJA from the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service. Individuals whose registrations are postmarked before February 2, 1997, will save on the registration fee. Otherwise, regular registration must be postmarked before March 15, 1998. For more information, contact Guy Koga at (808) 395-4869.

If you have a story idea or want to list an event for veterans in the *Hawaii Veteran*, please forward the information to the State Department of Defense Public Affairs Office, 733-4236 (fax), or call 733-4241. **The submission deadline for the Spring '98 (April 98) issue is May 8, 1998.**



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